BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	
CECULA DEVEDA CUDA CELO DA	

CECILIA DEVERA CURAMENG, R.N. 27291 Glenmeadows Drive Lake Forest, CA 92630

Registered Nurse License No. 542506

Respondent.

Case No. 2007-239

OAH No. L-2007070315

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on <u>December 19, 2007</u>.

It is so ORDERED <u>November 19, 2007</u>.

FOR THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 2 3 4 5	of the State of California JAMES LEDAKIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General SUSAN FITZGERALD, State Bar No. 112278 Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101			
7	P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2066 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061			
9	Attorneys for Complainant			
10	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING			
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
12				
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2007-239		
14	CECILIA DEVERA CURAMENG, R.N. 27291 Glenmeadows Drive	OAH No. L-2007070315		
15	Lake Forest, CA 92630	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER		
16	Registered Nurse License No. 542506			
17	Respondent.			
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGRE	ED by and between the parties to the above-		
19	entitled proceedings that the following matters are tr	ue:		
20	PARTIE	<u>S</u>		
21	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. (Comp	lainant) is the Executive Officer of the		
22	Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action	n solely in her official capacity and is		
23	represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr.,	Attorney General of the State of California,		
24	by Susan Fitzgerald, Deputy Attorney General.			
25	2. Cecilia Devera Curameng, R.N. (Resp	condent) is representing herself in this		
26	proceeding and has chosen not to exercise her right to	be represented by counsel.		
27	3. On or about April 1, 1998, the Board	of Registered Nursing issued Registered		
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full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2007-239 and will expire on April 30, 2008, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 2007-239 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. A true and correct copy of the Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on April 3, 2007. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 2007-239 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2007-239. Respondent has also carefully read and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent admits the truth of each charge and allegation in Accusation No. 2007-239 related to the Second and Third Causes for Discipline. Regarding the First Cause for Discipline, Respondent neither admits nor denies the allegations and charge; however, she acknowledged that were the case to go to hearing, Complainant could establish a prima facie ///

case. Respondent chooses not to contest the allegations and charge in the First Cause for Discipline.

9. Respondent agrees that her registered nurse license is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CIRCUMSTANCES IN MITIGATION

10. Respondent Cecilia Devera Curameng, R.N. has never been the subject of any disciplinary action. She is admitting responsibility at an early stage in the proceedings.

RESERVATION

11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board of Registered Nursing or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

OTHER MATTERS

13. In consideration for the above stipulations and waivers, Complainant agrees to cost recovery in the amount of \$4,598.25.

14. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 542506 issued to Respondent Cecilia Devera Curameng, R.N. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions:

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. Obey All Laws. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. Comply with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no

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more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

- 3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.
- 4. Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State. Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. Submit Written Reports. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

6. Function as a Registered Nurse. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements. Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to her employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. Supervision. Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods

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of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in (a) the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
- Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the (b) patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.
- Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has personto-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.
- Home Health Care If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care (d) setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.
- 9. Employment Limitations. Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. Complete a Nursing Course(s). Respondent, at her own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of her probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. Cost Recovery. Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$4,598.25. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months before the end of the probation term.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation will apply.

12. Violation of Probation. If Respondent violates the conditions of her probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

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If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

13. License Surrender. During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

- Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other (1)than a mental or physical illness; or
 - One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness. (2)

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

DATED: September 17, 2007

LIA DEVERA CURAMENO)RN Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: 3007

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California

LINDA SCHNEIDER Supervising Deputy Attorney General

SUSAN FITZGERALD Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

Exhibit A
Accusation No. 2007-239

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	of the State of California MARGARET LAFKO, Supervising Deputy Attorney General SUSAN FITZGERALD, State Bar No. 112278 Deputy Attorney General		
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10	BEFORE T		
11	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
12	STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2007-239	
14	ACCOSATION		
15	27291 Glenmeadows Dr Lake Forest, CA 92630		
16	Registered Nurse License No. 542506,		
17	Respondent.		
18	Complainant alleges:		
19	<u>PARTIE</u>	<u>s</u>	
20	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. ("Com	plainant") brings this Accusation solely in	
21	her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of		
22	Consumer Affairs.		
23	2. On or about April 1, 1998, the Board of	of Registered Nursing ("Board") issued	
24	Registered Nurse License Number 542506 to Cecilia Devera Curameng ("Respondent"). The		
25	license will expire on April 30, 2008, unless renewed		
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27	///		
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JURISDICTION

Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") provides:

Every certificate holder or licensee, including licensees holding temporary licenses, or licensees holding licenses placed in an inactive status, may be disciplined as provided in this article [Article 3 of the Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof Code, § 2700 et seq.)]. As used in this article, 'license' includes certificate, registration, or any other authorization to engage in practice regulated by this chapter. The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code [the Administrative Procedure Act], and the board shall have all the powers granted therein.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

4. Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(1), provides:

The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- (1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual certified or licensed nursing functions.
- 5. Code section 2762, subdivision (e), provides, in pertinent part:

In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

- (e) Falsify, or make grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in any hospital, patient, or other record pertaining to the substances described in subdivision (a) of this section."
- 6. Code section 4022 provides:
 - 'Dangerous drug' or 'dangerous device' means any drug or device unsafe for self-use in humans or animals, and includes the following:
 - (a) Any drug that bears the legend: 'Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription,' 'Rx only,' or words of similar import.
 - (b) Any device that bears the statement: 'Caution:

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1		federal law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a, 'Rx only,' or words of similar import, the blank	
2		to be filled in with the designation of the practitioner licensed to use or order use of the device.	
3 4		(c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to	
5		Section 4006."	
6	7.	Code section 125.3 provides that the Board may request the administrative law	
7	judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act		
8	to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of		
9	the case.		
		<u>DRUGS</u>	
10	8.	Coumadin (Warfarin) is a dangerous drug within the meaning of	
11	Code section	4022, in that under federal or state law it can only be lawfully dispensed on	
12	prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006.		
. 13			
14	·	REGULATORY PROVISIONS	
15	9.	California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1442, provides:	
16		As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'gross negligence'	
17		includes an extreme departure from the standard of care which, under similar circumstances, would have ordinarily been exercised	
18		by a competent registered nurse. Such an extreme departure means	
19		the repeated failure to provide nursing care as required or failure to provide care or to exercise ordinary precaution in a single situation	
20		which the nurse knew, or should have known, could have jeopardized the client's health or life.	
21	10.	California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1443, provides:	
22		As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'incompetence'	
23		means the lack of possession of or the failure to exercise that degree of learning, skill, care and experience ordinarily possessed	
24		and exercised by a competent registered nurse as described in Section 1443.5.	
25	11.	California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1443.5, provides:	
26		A registered nurse shall be considered to be competent	
27		when he/she consistently demonstrates the ability to transfer scientific knowledge from social, biological and physical	
28		sciences in applying the nursing process, as follows:	
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1 2	(1) Formulates a nursing diagnosis through observation of the client's physical condition and behavior, and through interpretation of information obtained from the client and		
3	others, including the health team.		
4	(2) Formulates a care plan, in collaboration with the client, which ensures that direct and indirect nursing care services provide for the client's safety, comfort, hygiene, and protection, and for disease		
5	prevention and restorative measures.		
6	(3) Performs skills essential to the kind of nursing action to be taken, explains the health treatment to the client and family and		
7 8	teaches the client and family how to care for the client's health needs.		
	(4) Delegates tasks to subordinates based on the legal scopes of		
9	practice of the subordinates and on the preparation and capability needed in the tasks to be delegated, and effectively supervises		
10	nursing care being given by subordinates.		
11	(5) Evaluates the effectiveness of the care plan through observation of the client's physical condition and behavior, signs		
12	and symptoms of illness, and reactions to treatment and through communication with the client and health team members, and		
13	modifies the plan as needed.		
14	(6) Acts as the client's advocate, as circumstances require, by initiating action to improve health care or to change decisions or		
15	activities which are against the interests or wishes of the client, and by giving the client the opportunity to make informed decisions		
16	about health care before it is provided.		
17			
18	<u>CHARGES AND ALLEGATIONS</u>		
19	First Cause for Discipline		
20	(Gross Negligence)		
21	12. Respondent's license is subject to discipline for unprofessional conduct under		
22	Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(1) in conjunction with CCR §1142 in that, on or about		
23	October 2, 2004, while employed at and on duty as a registered nurse at Fountain Valley		
24	Regional Hospital (Fountain Valley), located in Fountain Valley, California Respondent		
25	committed acts of gross negligence as follows:		
26	While providing care for Patient #010455095, a 75 year-old patient who had recently		
27	undergone a "thoracentesis procedure," Respondent failed to take vital signs every 15 minutes		

and failed to assess the patient's lung function. She also did not comply with the established Fountain Valley guidelines for the care of a post-thoracentesis procedure patient.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Incompetence)

13. Respondent's license is subject to discipline for unprofessional conduct under Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(1) in conjunction with CCR § 1443 in that, on or about October 15, 2004, while employed at and on duty as a registered nurse at Fountain Valley, Respondent committed an act of incompetence as follows:

At approximately 1730 hours, Respondent administered a 4 mg. dose of Coumadin (Warfarin) to Patient #010564817 when, in fact, she should have administered only a 1 mg. dose. Respondent admitted that she did not see the change in dosage (at 1600 hours) until after she administered the 4 mg. two hours later. Additionally, Respondent made false and/or grossly incorrect entries in the records concerning this, as more particularly alleged below.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(False, Grossly Incorrect, Grossly Inconsistent Record Entries)

14. Respondent's license is subject to discipline for unprofessional conduct under Code section 2762, subdivision (e) in that, on or about October 15, 2004, while employed at Fountain Valley, Respondent made false, grossly incorrect, or grossly inconsistent entries in hospital, patient, or other records pertaining to Coumadin (Warfarin) for Patient #010564817 in that she falsely recorded the amount of Coumadin given the patient and crossed out a changed documentation of medication dose that was given (re the Coumadin).

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing the Board issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 542506,
 issued to Cecilia Devera Curameng;
- 2. Ordering Cecilia Devera Curameng to pay the reasonable costs incurred by the Board in the investigation and enforcement of this case pursuant to Code section 125.3; and,

1	3.	Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
2	DATED:	D126107
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7		RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N.
8		Executive Officer
9		Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs State of California
10		State of California Complainant
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